

CAMBRIDGE & DISTRICT RIDING CLUB NEWSLETTER

January 2009

From the Chair

It was great to see so many members at the AGM in early november. Lydia Crabtree from Cambridgeshire Constabulary Rural Community Action Team gave a fascinating talk on yard security and personal safety, and Ellen Muirhead from Countryside Watch gave an introduction to their work and provided a demonstration of saddle marking. We hope to organise another session where members can bring tack to be marked. In between, the serious business of the AGM means that you have much the same committee as before! However we do welcome Cindy Wells and Mary Groombridge. Full details of the committee roles and contact details are on the contacts page. Please remember that these details are not on the website, so do hold onto this page if you receive your newsletters online. The AGM is also the time for presentation of the club awards. Recipients are listed in this newsletter, and all are well deserved.

We have plans afoot for a number of new events and clinics. We are hoping to (or have organised) a Bitting Talk, a lesson on a dressage schoolmaster at Contessa Riding near Ware, and we are looking at polo and western riding lessons. In response to member demand we are aiming for more cross country clinics, a jump cross training day, and a series of novice rider / novice horse jumping clinics. We are also hoping to have a Natural Horsemanship clinic (see Caroline Mitchells article inside). We are very fortunate that Joanne Harrison has managed to book Lucinda Green for a cross country clinic in march! Apply for a space ASAP.

We will be running the Area Indoor Novice SJ Qualifier at Manor Farm, Houghton on Feb 22nd, the May Show at Cottenham on May 3rd, and the Area Outdoor SJ Qualifier at Cottenham on July 12th, aswell as continuing the Milton Winter Dressage series. And do not forget the Ceiledh on March 7th.

In order to keep you fully informed of RC events, we are trying a new form of diary communication this year. We will aim to update the diary more frequently, producing a new version on the first of each month. This will be notified to you by email, unless you specifically opt for a paper copy. So please, when you

subscribe for 2008-9 (a) make sure we have your correct email address and (b) let us know if you need a paper copy. We hope this will keep everyone better informed, without costing the club a fortune. The full newsletter will continue to be produced, as before, five times per year.

Happy New Year

Karen

CDRC Annual Awards

I am delighted to announce that the following were awarded at the AGM:

Performance Award (senior) to Sandra Baker for 3rd at Lincoln in the dressage championships.

Performance Award (junior) to the winning XC team at the Festival of the Hunter- Toby Chapman, Holly Dukes, Rachel Dyke, Megan Hart.

Appreciation Award to Jackie Smith for all her help at club events.

Versatility (senior) to Barry Meningen who won qualifiers in both showjumping and eventing.

Versatility (junior) to Rhea MacLeod who participated in every discipline, including 2 championships, and is a dab hand at setting up dressage arenas!

Winter Dressage League Points Winner is Jackie Smith with Mr Rolo.

White Horse points cup is Niki Shaw

Red Baron junior points cup is Megan Hart .

Ride at Windsor!!!

There is a new series of RC qualifiers this winter , leading to a championship at Windsor next summer. Details are only just coming through, but so far we know that there is a Riding Test competition (BRC RT6) which is essentially a dressage test judged on the way you ride, rather than on how spectacular your horse is; and a topscore showjumping contest. The competitions are open to members and non members but qualification is dependant on subsequently joining a Riding Club. Area 7 is hoping to run club and area rounds at Manor Farm, Houghton . Provisional dates are jan 18th for sj and jan 24th for riding test, but these are subject to confirmation. Do keep an eye on the website where we

will publish more details as available. Contact Judi Shaw for jumping or Rebecca Seymour or myself for Riding Test if you are potentially interested.

Karen

Winter Dressage Qualifier

Apologies for the short notice but there is a winter dressage area qualifier on Sunday february 1st at Bury Farm EC, Slapton near Leighton Buzzard. The tests are P12 or N27 for both seniors and juniors. Further details and full schedule are at www.aspleyguiseridingclub.co.uk. Winners go forward to the finals at Hartpury College at the end of march. If interested please contact Rebecca Seymour ASAP.

Indoor Novice Showjumping Qualifier

Hi! you senior show jumpers!! We are hosting the next qualifier at Manor Farm, St Ives on 22nd February 2009.

All those who wish to compete please give me a call before January 25th 2009. We are hoping to have a clear round running all day, competition height of fences will be 75cms in the first round and 85cms in the second. Come and have a go! Don't forget all horses must be up to date with their flu vaccs!!!

Judi Shaw or Sharron Dyke for juniors.

Lucinda Green XC clinic for CDRC at Ely Eventing Centre!!

Tuesday march 24th. 2 hour clinic £90.

Please contact Joanne Harrison or Karen Froud. Cheques payable to Mrs J Harrison.

First come, first served basis.

An Evening with Hilary Vernon, Biting Clinician from Informed Biting

Friday 6th February 2009 - 7.30 -10.30pm

Rampton Village Hall, Church End, Rampton, Cambridgeshire, CB24 8QA

Cambridge & District Riding Club are delighted to be hosting an evening with Hilary Vernon who is renowned for her biting clinics and regularly appears on Horse & Country alongside Team Fredericks. She is the author of The Allen Illustrated Guides to Bits and Biting, Training Aids, Horse Clothing, Saddlery and Carriage Horse Harness and Biting. Her vast knowledge covers a variety of topics detailed below as biting is something not all of us give a great deal of consideration to – however it can make a remarkable improvement in your horses way of going!! So if your struggling with your horse relaxing in his dressage, too strong cross country, won't listen to you showjumping or you would just like to improve your knowledge of this complicated subject - this is the evening for you!

Topics:

General Biting: Considerations before we think of changing the bit. How Bits work. How to understand Resistances. How to access the structure of your Horse's mouth. How to fit Bits and Combination Bits. How to select the right bit for your Horse. How to transition him into his new bit successfully.

Specific Biting: Myler ,Double Bridles, Endurance, Showing, Eventing, Carriage Driving

Training Aids: Lunge Cavesson. Side Reins . Vienna Reins. Chambon etc
What they look like . How they work. How to fit . When to Use . How to use.

Tickets are available from Karen Froud or Joanne Harrison £10.00 for members and non-members £12.00. Cheques payable to: CDRC

www.informedbitting.com

HORSE TRIALS (EVENTING) TEAMS 09

The Area 7 horse trials qualifier will be on Sunday 17th May 2009 at the College Equestrian Centre Keysoe. (with an alternative date of 5th July should it be rained off).

There will be a Novice Intermediate & Open Senior team and individual competition and Junior Novice & Open and the winners will qualify for the National Horse Trials Championships at OffchurchBury in August. We hope to enter teams in all sections and want to encourage members to have a go at eventing.

Novice approx 2'9 intro level horses may be registered BE but not have any BE points or been placed in the first 6 places pre-nov or completed a BE pre-nov or higher standard course in the current year.

Intermediate 3'0-3'3 Pre-Nov level No BE points but can be registered with BE

Open 2 members of team with max 20 BE points & 2 with max 60 points (can have 2 on team 21-60 points but will be awarded 1 penalty per point 21-60)

TRAINING

For those interested in improving their skills XC I have booked 2 training sessions with Nat Dixon (local instructor/event rider who has completed Badminton and Burghley and events various horses from Novice- Advanced & showjumps BSJA.)

The first session will be at **Manor Farm on Thursday 5th March 2009 6-8pm** in an arena working on the riders upper body & lower leg position to improve safety across country & practising rhythm & balance in the arena. 6pm Novice & 7pm Intermediate/Open (a further hour can be added at 8pm if there is a demand) Cost £20 per person

I have also booked the XC course at **The College Keysoe** for XC training with Nat on **Saturday 18th April** 3 sessions Novice 9am Intermediate 11am & Open 1pm cost £30 per person for 1.5 approx hours tuition (including hire of course). Body Protectors compulsory.

If you want to put your name down for the teams please contact either Kerry Simson or Mary Groombridge who will be organising the Senior teams this year or Sharon Dyke for Juniors by 30th MARCH 2009.

Please make sure your flu vacs are up to date and send a copy of the flu vac dates and the ID page to Karen Froud (CDRC chairman) asap who is compiling a database for the area. Approximate cost of the ODE will be £45 per person. Please send the booking form along with cheques payable to CDRC to book your space on the training sessions (first come first served) All welcome.

COME ON HAVE A GO, NEW FACES WELCOME: ESPECIALLY THE FELLA'S!

PLEASE NOTE THE RIDING CLUB RULE HX 1.1.1. which prevents team members from practising over the course in the 3 weeks prior to the area qualifier (therefore any combinations competing at the Keysoe BE event 2/3 May cannot enter this team competition) .

Quadrille

The CDRC quadrille costumes are on their way to Olympia! St Edmunds RC has qualified their mardi gras themed “Mystik Krewe” team for the Christmas finals. Good luck there to Linda Price and her team.

Balancing the Accounts

If you were present at the AGM you will be aware that the club made a small loss on the year. Whilst we still have substantial reserves we would like to ensure that we break even next year. The most considerable cost is that of the interbranch team entries. Whilst we ask each competitor to pay the local entry fees to the club hosting the event, there is also a fee to British Riding Clubs headquarters for each entry, which is used towards costs and the championships. Many clubs also require competitors to pay this extra fee. After discussion at the last committee meeting, it was felt that the club is widely known for its competitive success, so we would not want to restrict entries to qualifiers, and by the same token, we would still like to reward those qualifying by paying championship entries. Therefore for this year we will ask each competitor to pay half of the preliminary entry fee as well as the local entry. We feel that this is the fairest way to spread the cost, without burdening those who do not compete. It must be reiterated that anyone asking for a team place is obliged to pay the entry (unless a substitute can be found) regardless of whether they subsequently make it there, as the club has to honour all entries made in advance.

The results will be visible at next years AGM...

“THE ROAD TO HELL IS PAVED WITH GOOD INTENTIONS”

It is only my good intention, risking hell, to impart to you my own personal experience to encourage you to consider joining me on a journey to discover a more useful and pleasant way to connect and handle your horse to improve you and your horse's relationship with each other, and in doing so, improve your individual equestrian skills for whichever direction you and your companion/s take; show jumping, eventing, dressage, western, endurance, driving, breeding, young stock, showing, gymkhanas, but most importantly, just being with, dealing with and riding your horse more safely and with greater every day interest and perception and progressive results.

Now, if you believe you know all there is to know about you and your horse, stop reading now. If you think that handling your horse has nothing whatsoever to do with riding your horse, stop reading now. If you're thinking “oh, here we go, another finger pointing, rope twirling, touchy, feely, tree hugger with a load of trendy talk – what a load of b*****s”, then at one time I couldn't have agreed with you more, but stop reading now. If you think you have had your horse for so short a time, so long a time, and that you can't possibly change yourself and them and don't want to; and that he/she has always done/not done this, that and the other and you'll never/can't, he'll never/can't, she'll never/can't change/improve/stop/go/bend/listen/slow down/liven up/be nice/be brave/be quiet/think things out/has always spooked/bucked/bolted/reared/bitten, then don't read on.

Also, and it's a BIG also, don't read on if you want a quick fix, don't like to think too hard, spend more time looking in the mirror than looking at your soul, have never eaten your own words or been able digest humble pie, believe that its always someone else's fault and never your own, prefer the look of your jodhpurs rather than the look in your horse's eye, blame the horse in any way for anything, then don't let me waste your time.

But if you feel you don't have a second in your over busy life, no time for yourself, no time for your horse, no time for anything but rush, rush, rush; worn down, ground down, and struggling with your life and your horse, then come with me to a better place.

And if you ever thought or felt the tiniest bit that there must be a bit more to it than the reins, the spurs, the whip, the lines, the struggle, then come along with me and lets try this.

If I can encourage just one of you to get curious, want to learn, open up your attitudes, think outside the box, into unlimited possibilities for you and your horse, then I will tread the road to hell and be glad.

So, what are we actually on about here? We're on about coming together to learn and develop some simple, very readily learnable practical skills using the rope halter and a longer lead rope and most importantly time and thought; time to listen and think about how we are with our horses and be taught to understand what every move they make is telling us and being able to use that knowledge and understanding to train and get along with them better. From a mornings practical handling skills, then into the saddle in the afternoon with our bridles and halters to carry on the mornings work and have a entertaining time.

Well, I never did get round to telling you my own story of me and my horse and why these readily learnable techniques have helped me so much, but that will have to wait for the next newsletter in march. In the meantime, breath deeply, sigh slowly and think outside the box.

Ginger 14.11.08

Clinics

Training dates are on the attached diary. Please note there are still spaces for Virginia Brinton flatwork and Fran Berry gridwork / flatwork with poles in January.

Val Gingell is again teaching jumping midweek at Witcham. Contact Karen Froud for dates.

Also Jo Lawrence BHSAI, event rider and CDRC member will be teaching jumping for novices (both riders and /or horses) at Fenning Farm, Soham starting in april. Rebecca Jarvis is organising these.

Do keep checking the website for updates: www.CandDRC.org.uk

Newsletter

Due to last minute editorial changes I apologise that the format is a little more basic than we have grown accustomed to. Hopefully the high standard will be restored next issue! Meanwhile please send any copy for the next newsletter to Karen or newsletter@CandDRC.org.uk

For Sale

14.2/3 9 year old black gelding. Super smart quality dales pony. Very forward going, not a first pony. Loves jumping, can be fast and fizzy, needs confident rider. Has done all pony club, inc camp with previous owner; now going out to RC lessons/ dressage with current owner. Excellent to catch, box, shoe etc, impeccable stable manners. Stunning looking, has the wow factor, would do well in the show ring, (see advert on Horsemart). Reluctant sale, and will only go to the right person and a first class home. £3500 Please call Jane .

For Sale or Loan

Rosie 11hh welsh sect A mare. Used as lead rein and first ridden pony, shown, driven and bred 2 foals. Enquiries to Tana.

Wanted

Small and utterly bombproof leadrein pony for 6 year old boy. Competent home. Contact Karen.

Pony for Loan

A 5* home needed for this much loved, and sadly outgrown 13.2hh chestnut gelding, welsh section b, a very fit and healthy 23 year old. 100% in every way. He is a safe, gentle and genuine pony who is looking for a loving home. Please ring for more details.
Sue or Emily Driscoll .

Wanted - Loving Loan Home/Share for Hug

Hug is 16.1hh TB x Irish Draft, rising 20 this new year. A fantastic friend, he has been a 'done-it-all' star over the years, but he is sadly no long able to compete at the level I am interested in due to an injury. Sensible companion and light hack, I am looking for a very loving home/share for this schoolmaster. He has been such a fabulous horse to me that my main priority is that he is in a good home, where he can have a bit of fun. If interested to find out more or come and meet Hug, please call Lucinda Tolhurst. He is near Cambridge.